



# CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

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## Department of Toxic Substances Control

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### **Laptops and LCD Computer Monitors**

Sacramento - - In a joint announcement by the California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and California Integrated Waste Management Board, laptop computers (notebooks) and liquid crystal display (LCD) computer monitors will be part of a statewide recycling program established under Senate Bill 20, "The Electronic Waste Recycling Act", authored by Senator Byron Sher. The program is designed to promote and fund the collection of electronic devices.

Preliminary studies by the DTSC's Hazardous Materials Laboratory (HML) revealed these electronic devices exceed the State's hazardous waste thresholds. According to a report, "Determination of Regulated Elements in Laptop Computers and LCD Desktop Monitors for SB 20", released by HML, preliminary results indicated that all devices tested clearly exceeded at least one hazardous waste criterion. Copper was the most common element exceeding its limits followed by lead. Copies of the report can be obtained at [http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/CRTs/HWMP\\_REP\\_SB20\\_LCD.pdf](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/CRTs/HWMP_REP_SB20_LCD.pdf).

"This determination and inclusion of these products into the recycling program will ensure safe efficient collection and reuse of these electronic devices. Manufacturers, retailers, consumers, and recyclers will participate in a coordinated effort to manage these discarded items safely," said Ed Lowry, DTSC Director.

DTSC's determination clarifies that all computer monitors, laptops, and most televisions sold in California (with screens measuring 4 inches or larger diagonally) are now subject to the state's new electronic waste recycling fee beginning July 1, 2004. This includes the sale of designated products to California consumers through the Web or via mail order. Retailers must collect the recycling fee at the time of sale and failure to do so could result in substantial fines. Manufacturers must submit a list of their products covered under the new law to retailers by April 1, 2004.

The fee ranges from \$6 to \$10 per monitor or television, depending upon the size of the screen. The fee will help defray the cost to safely recycle these types of products when they are no longer useful. For more information on the SB 20 fee and how it will be used, visit [www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Electronics/](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Electronics/).

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**The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.**